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Hitler Profile Predicted His Later Suicide

From Times Wire Services

SARASOTA, Fla.—The American psychoanalyst commissioned by the Office of Strategic Services during World War II to provide a psychological profile of Adolf Hitler died at his home here July 4.

Walter C. Langer was 82 and his study, published commercially as "The Mind of Adolf Hitler: The Secret Wartime Report," proved prophetic in predicting Hitler's suicide.

The book, which became a best-seller, was based on Langer's secret report to Gen. William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan, wartime chief of the OSS. Langer headed a team of analysts who interviewed many who had known Hitler both as a young man and as leader of the Third Reich.

Based on 'Mein Kampf'

But much of Langer's insight, he wrote, came from Hitler's autobiography, "Mein Kampf."

Reviewing the book for the Los Angeles Times after it was published in 1972, critic Peter Loewenberg called attention to Langer's focus on Hitler's father. Hitler made brief mention of his own father in the autobiography but generalized about other fathers and husbands who drink and come home and sexually abuse their wives causing "pitiable scenes that cry out for God's mercy."

Langer concluded that the scenes Hitler generalized were specific to his own home and were responsible for making Hitler "a neurotic psychopath bordering on schizophrenia."

His home life, Langer surmised, made Hitler incapable of love and led to a confusion between sexuality and assault that surfaced both in Hitler's hatred of Jews (an obsession to deny reports of Hitler's own Jewish blood) and the German leader's sexual aberrations.

Predicted Suicide

Langer predicted Hitler's suicide two years before it occurred, saying that "as Germany suffers successive defeats, Hitler will become more and more neurotic" and will take his own life.

In a foreward to the book, Langer said he believed "that if such a study of Hitler had been made years earlier . . . there might not have been a Munich, a similar study of Stalin might have produced a different Yalta, one of Castro might have prevented the Cuban situation and one of President Diem might have avoided our deep involvement in Vietnam."

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